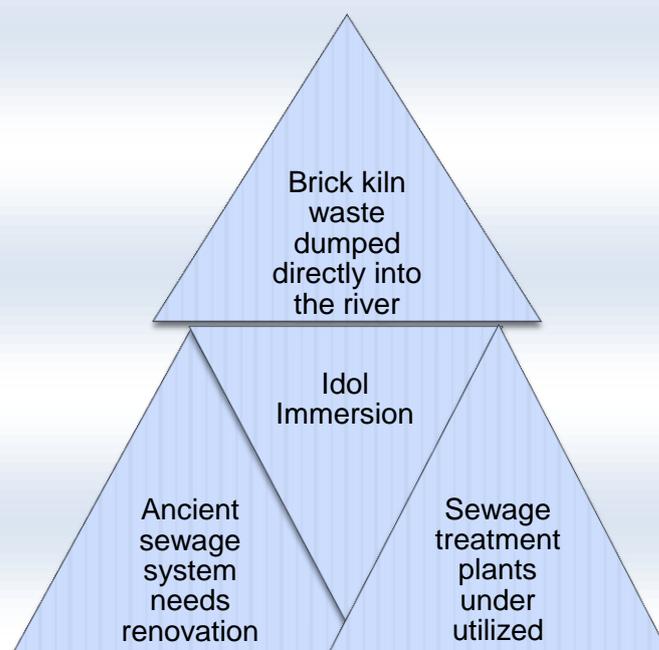


FROM HOPE TO ACTION

PATNA

Patna is the capital and largest city of the state of Bihar in India. Situated at the southern bank of the Ganges, the city is a pilgrim centre for Hindus, Buddhists and Jains alike. Ganga Aarti is a Spectacular Hindu Ritual that takes place on the Bank of River Ganga at Gandhi Ghat in Patna.

The Ganga in Patna is connected to a sewage network and therefore, city's excreta is discharged into open drains and eventually into the same river. Ganga water in Patna isn't used in Bihar for large-scale irrigation due to restrictions imposed by the 1996 Farakka water-sharing treaty between India and Bangladesh. The shift of the course of Ganga has caused various problems in the city. The sewage treatment plants in Patna remain underutilized to a large extent. The city lacks an efficient system to transfer the sewage from its sources to the sewage treatment plants and as a result of this most of the waste that is released in the river remains untreated. The idols that are immersed in the Ganga contain enormous amounts of lead and other non-biodegradable contaminants. They further worsen the health of an already dying Ganga. This causes immense damage to the aquatic life and biodiversity of Ganga.



IMPACT

- Spread of water borne diseases
- Imbalance in ecology
- Decreased biodiversity of river
- Damaging the tourism industry
- Impacts the livelihood of the people working in *dhobi ghats*

SOLUTIONS

- Installing new sewage treatment plants, imposing penalties etc
- Idols of clay should be used for immersion and vegetable dyes for decoration
- Construction of toilets to avoid open defecation

About Bancroft Arnesen Explore (BAE): BAE has launched the 'Access Water Journey' in 2015 which is a two-month expedition along the river Ganga and is spearheaded by two two powerful women explorers who hope to ignite global conversations towards a safe and abundant world, starting with clean water.

About The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI): The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is a not-for-profit institution actively engaged in a number of research and grassroots activities on environment and Sustainable Development.